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News: India not on target in many women related development goals

- A recent analysis published in The Lancet has concluded that India is not on target to achieve 19 of the 33 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators.
- The critical off target indicators include access to basic services, wasting and overweight children, anaemia, child marriage, partner violence, tobacco use and modern contraceptive use.
- For these indicators, more than 75% of the 707 districts analysed were off target. And these off target districts are concentrated in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha.
- The five indicators with the highest number of districts that have met the target (achieved) are adolescent pregnancy (684 districts), tobacco use in women (478), multidimensional poverty (370), teenage sexual violence (340), and electricity access (306).
- The five indicators with the most districts on target are bank accounts (624 districts), improved sanitation (553), full vaccination (538), Internet use (502), and skilled birth attendants (438).

- Indicators with the largest number of off target districts include anaemia in women (644 districts), anaemia in non pregnant women (643), access to basic services (613), anaemia in pregnant women (606), and health insurance for women (591).
- The indicators with the largest number of districts that will meet their targets after 2040 are access to basic services (437), health insurance for women (334), own mobile phone for women (299), health insurance for men (296), and clean fuel for cooking (276).
- Indicators with most districts that will never meet its targets at all are anaemia among women (430), anaemia in non pregnant women (430), anaemia in pregnant women (396), wasting and overweight children (330) and partner's sexual violence (291).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.
- At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

➤ 17 Goals are: No poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health & Well Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water & Sanitation, Affordable & Clean Energy, Decent work & Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities & Communities, Responsible Consumption & Production, Climate Action, Life Below water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions and Partnership for the Goals.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PM Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)

- PM Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) scheme seeks to replace all diesel pump-sets with solar pumps and the excess power generated through solar panels will be purchased by state governments at a price that gives the farmer a good profit.
- It is launched by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) under the National solar Mission which targets to install 100 GW solar powers by 2022.
- State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) of MNRE will coordinate with States/UTs, Discoms and farmers for implementation of the scheme.
- Also, to develop solar power, bids are invited from large business players to develop solar parks.
- Installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas.
- Installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfill irrigation needs of farmers not connected to the grid.
- Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOMs and get an extra income.

- Solarization of tube-wells and lift irrigation projects of the Government sector.
- Encouraging farmers to grow “Solar Trees” on their lands. The Solar Tree is much like that of a real tree, where solar panels (act like leaves) connected through metal branches using sunlight to make energy.
- The first farm based solar power plant under the Prime Minister’s Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme has come up in Jaipur district’s Kotputli tehsil with a provision for production of 17 lakh units of electricity every year.
- For ease of availability of finance the Reserve Bank of India included the three components of the Scheme under Priority Sector Lending Guidelines.

The approved scheme comprises of three components:

- Setting up of 10,000 MW of decentralised ground/stilt-mounted grid- connected solar or other renewable energy based power plants.
- Installation of 17.5 lakh standalone solar agriculture pumps
- Solarisation of 10 lakh grid-connected solar agriculture pumps.

Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED's for All (UJALA)

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LED's for All (UJALA) was **launched in 2015 with a target of replacing 77 crore incandescent lamps with LED bulbs and to nullify the high-cost of LEDs** that acted as a barrier previously in the adoption of energy-efficient systems.
- UJALA is implemented by **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, a joint venture of PSUs under Ministry of Power.
- The scheme was implemented to set up a phase-wise LED distribution.
- The objective is **to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment that will reduce electricity bills and preserve the environment.**
- It is the **world's largest domestic lighting project.**

Achievements

- Through the UJALA initiative, **over 36.13 crore LED bulbs have been distributed across India.** This has resulted in an **estimated energy savings of 46.92 billion kWh per year, avoided peak demand of 9,394 MW, and an estimated Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction of 38 million tons of CO₂ annually.**

- The reduced electricity bills add to a household's disposable income and lifetime savings, thus improving the quality of life, generating prosperity in local communities and in expanding energy access to all.
- Apart from this, the Government of India initiated the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (GSA) in 2018, which was aimed at the promotion of social harmony by appraising rural communities of various government welfare schemes and initiatives. As a part of it, villages with poor households were able to buy LED bulbs for a special price under UJALA programme.

Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP)

- Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) was launched in 2015 and has been instrumental in replacing over 50 lakh street lights in over 500 cities in India.
- It is implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power.
- Under the programme, EESL replaces the conventional street lights with LEDs at its own costs, with no upfront investment by the municipalities, thereby making their adoption even more attractive.
- It is the world's largest streetlight replacement programme.

Achievements

- Under the SLNP programme, over 1.03 crore smart LED streetlights have been installed till date, enabling an estimated energy savings of 6.97 billion kWh per year with an avoided peak demand of 1,161 MW and an estimated greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction of 4.80 million tons CO₂ annually.
- LED streetlights have been installed in various states across the country, helping generate approximately 13,000 jobs to support Make in India initiative.
- It has enabled citizens to increase productivity at night and made roads safer for pedestrians and motorists due to enhanced brightness and reduced dark spots.
- The power utilities of states where the installation of LEDs has been implemented save up to 50% in electricity bills.

National Health Mission & Janani Suraksha Yojana

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention under the National Health Mission (NHM). The Yojana was launched on 12th April 2005. It is being implemented in all states and UTs with special focus on low performing states.
- JSY is a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme and it integrates cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care.

- Under the JSY, eligible pregnant women are entitled to cash assistance irrespective of the age of mother and number of children for giving birth in a government or accredited private health facility.

Pradhan Mantri UJJWALA Yojana (PMUY)

Background

- Large section of Indians, especially women and girls, are exposed to severe **Household Air Pollution** (HAP) from the use of solid fuels such as biomass, dung cakes and coal for cooking.
- A report from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare places **HAP as the second leading risk factor contributing to India's disease burden.**
- According to the World Health Organization, solid fuel use is responsible for about 13% of all mortality and morbidity in India (measured as Disability-Adjusted Life Years), and causes about 40% of all pulmonary disorders, nearly 30% of cataract incidences, and over 20% each of ischemic heart disease, lung cancer and lower respiratory infection.

Scheme Features

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, which aims to **provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections** to poor households.
- Under the scheme, an **adult woman member of a below poverty line** family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) is given a **deposit-free LPG connection** with financial assistance of Rs **1,600 per connection** by the Centre.

Identification of households

- **Eligible households will be identified in consultation with state governments and Union territories.**

Implementing agency

- The scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**

Target

- The target of UJJWALA 1.0 was to **provide 5 crore LPG gas connections** to 5 crore women.

- Subsequently, the scheme was expanded in April 2018 to include women beneficiaries from seven more categories including SC, ST, most backward classes, tea garden, forest dwellers and Islands.
- Later, the target was revised to 8 Crore LPG connections which were achieved in August 2019, seven months ahead of the target date.
- But, only three States have become kerosene free. These include- Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.
- Union Territories that have become kerosene-free are the Union Territories of Delhi, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Puducherry.

Second phase of UJJWALA

- Recently, the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana – Ujjwala 2.0 was launched.
- In the Union budget for Financial Year 2021-22, a provision for an additional one crore LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was announced.
- These one crore additional connections under Ujjwala 2.0 aim to provide deposit-free LPG connections to those low-income families who could not be covered under the earlier phase of this scheme.

- Along with a deposit free LPG connection, Ujjwala 2.0 will provide **first refill and hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.**
- Also, the enrollment procedure will **require minimum paperwork.**
- In Ujjwala 2.0, **migrants will not be required to submit ration cards or address proof.**
- A **self-declaration for both ‘family declaration’ and as a ‘proof of address’ will suffice.**
- Ujjwala 2.0 will help achieve the Prime Minister’s vision of universal access to LPG.

Poshan Abhiyaan / National Nutrition Mission

- Poshan Abhiyaan is the flagship programme of **Women and Child Empowerment Ministry** which aims at **improving nutritional outcomes among pregnant women, lactating mothers and children by reducing the level of stunting, underweight, anemia reduction 6*6*6 strategy, and low birth weight by 2022.**
- 50% of total budget comes from **World Bank** or other multilateral development banks and rest comes from **Centre’s budgetary support.**

- The Abhiyaan targets to **reduce stunting, under nutrition, anemia** (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and **reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively**.
- The target of the mission is to bring down **stunting** among children in the age group **0-6 years from 38.4% to 25%** by 2022.
- **More than a third of the children** under five face **stunting and wasting** and **40%** aged between one and four are anemic.
- Over **50%** of pregnant and other women were found to be anemic, said the National Family Health Survey 4 released in 2016.
- The **National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges** is formed under the Poshan Abhiyaan.

Poshan Tracker Application

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has rolled out **Poshan Tracker application**.
- The goal is to **follow nutrition systems strengthening approach for improving maternal and child undernutrition, focused on strengthening implementation bottlenecks at all levels**.
- The Poshan Tracker is built **using centralized data architecture that** also aligns with the digital technology systems of other ministries and programs.

- The system provides a digital identity to each beneficiary through a digital card, and allows convergence of call centre with the technology platform.
- The system generates automated alerts to the critical last-mile beneficiaries.
- It also ensures efficient audit of the delivery system, by documenting real time attendance of beneficiaries and duty bearers. Such a robust digital technology platform and management information system will help the mission to scale efficiently, thereby generating and documenting significant positive impact.

Purpose

- The purpose of POSHAN Tracker application is to provide a 360-degree view of the activities of the Anganwadi Centre (AWC), service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and complete beneficiary management for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. The proposed system should enable real-time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on the defined indicators.

News: Windsor Framework

- Recently, The United Kingdom and the European Union struck a deal regarding post Brexit (Britain Exit from EU) trade rules for Northern Ireland, with a view to remove the border between Britain and Northern Ireland running through the Irish Sea. The agreement is called Windsor Framework.

Windsor framework

- The fact that the Republic of Ireland remained with the EU after Brexit led to complications on the trade front, a wrinkle that the U. K.'s conservative government ironed out with the Northern Ireland Protocol.
- However, the Protocol, which allowed EU customs rules to apply across Northern Ireland, led to tensions in the province.
- The Windsor framework is the latest attempt at a remedy to the political complexities that have impacted trade and sentiments in the area.

Backdrop of the issue

- Ever since the Anglo – Irish Treaty of 1921 established the Irish Free State, the island's counties comprising Northern Ireland, remained a part of the U.K.
- The political split on the island was exacerbated by growing tensions, especially from the 1960s onwards, with spiraling violence between Unionists, who were

set on Northern Ireland remaining within the U.K., and the Republicans, who favoured unification with the Republic of Ireland.

- Over the following three decades of attacks that came to be known as “The Troubles”, more than 3,500 people died and many hundreds of thousands were injured.
- This dark saga on the island ended only after the Good Friday Agreement was hammered out in 1998 between Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern of the U.K. and the Republic of Ireland respectively.
- A key take away from the Agreement was that, respecting the wishes of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland, the province would remain a part of the U.K.
- The people of the province would continue to be governed by blended political institutions, based on power sharing between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Recent trade issues

- The arrangements made by the protocol faced an imminent challenge with the prospect of Brexit, and that led, in 2019, to the Northern Ireland Protocol, which allowed EU customs rules to apply in Northern Ireland.

- This was to avoid a hard customs border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Specifically, under the Protocol, Northern Ireland would formally be outside the EU single market, yet EU rules on the free movement of goods and customs union would continue to apply.
- While the Protocol promoted peace and harmony on the island, it de facto cut Northern Ireland off from the UK in terms of trade by imposing, in effect, a hard customs border in the Irish Sea.
- This aggravated Northern Ireland unionists who argued that it was unfair that goods could not flow freely between the province and the rest of the UK.

Windsor framework

- The Windsor framework seeks to address the aforementioned disruptions to trade between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. caused by the Northern Ireland Protocol.
- It does so by permitting free trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the use of green and red lanes for goods flowing into Northern Ireland.
- Green lane goods will have fewer checks and controls, including no customs checks or rules of origin.
- Red lane goods under the framework will be subject to full checks and controls to preserve the EU's single market.

- In a bid to ease the impact on farmers, agri – food goods such as meat and dairy will have reduced checks and controls, and food retailers, including supermarkets, wholesalers, and caterers, will be able to move agri – food via the green lane.
- The prohibition on certain chilled meats from Great Britain being sold in Northern Ireland will also be removed.
- The U.K. and EU leaders are hoping that this would lead to greater availability of British goods in Northern Ireland markets, including both foods and medicines.
- European Court of Justice (ECJ) will continue to be the final arbiter on matters of EU law affecting Northern Ireland.
- A veto which decides whether amended EU laws will apply in Northern Ireland or not. It requires 30 votes out of 90 membered Northern Ireland Assembly to stop any EU market rules.